



Washington State Department of Health
Board of Naturopathy
Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2020

On Friday, November 20, 2020, the Board of Naturopathy held a board meeting via Webinar. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Amira Ahdut, ND, LAc, Vice Chair
Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair
Libby Cope, ND (absent)
Joanne Hillary, ND
Marsha Moody, Public Member (absent)
Dr. Dean Neary, ND
Deborah Wright, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Gragg, Program Manager
Renee Fullerton, Executive Director
Davis Hylkema, Program Associate
Michelle Hartman, Administrative Assistant
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

Cori Tarzwell, Policy Analyst

GUESTS:

Amy Melznes
Angela Ross
Christian Dodge
Michael Varon
Tammy McGinnis
Tamara McDonald
Lauren Pizer
Rachel McCarty

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 A.M.

1.1 Introduction of board, staff, guests, and audience.

Dr. Chad Aschtgen, Chair, led roll call of board members and staff. He then offered an introductory statement explaining the procedure of the remote meeting.

1.2 Approval of November 20, 2020, agenda

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the November 20, 2020 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

1.3 Approval of August 14, 2020 business meeting minutes

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the August 14, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. **Old Business**

2.1 Rule Project Updates

2.1.1 Non-surgical cosmetic procedures

Ms. Gragg reported that the new CR-101 has begun the approval process within Department of Health. It should be filed with the Office of the Code Reviser by mid-December. Once filed, notice will go out through GovDelivery and workshops will be conducted by webinar. Input will be sought by Stakeholders on procedures appropriate for naturopathic physicians as well as to gather consensus on acceptable education and training requirements.

2.1.2 Repeal of WAC 246-836-410—AIDS prevention and information education requirements

Ms. Gragg shared that the CR-105 is complete and the CR-103 has begun the approval process within the Department of Health. This should be filed with the Office of the Code Reviser by the end of November; the repeal will be effective 31 days later. Notice will go out through GovDelivery.

2.1.3 Continuing education petitions

Ms. Gragg shared that requests to other licensure boards for the specifics of their accreditation process have been sent out; still awaiting results. Further discussion of the requests will occur at the board's next meeting, February 12, 2021.

3. **New Business**

3.1 COVID-19 Impact Follow-up

3.1.1 Extension of proclamations

Ms. Gragg reported that the Governor and legislative leaders have extended the proclamations for the open public meetings act (20-28), telemedicine parity reimbursement (20-29), and health care professions licensing (20-32) through December 7th, 2020. These extensions are done 30 days at a time, so likely will be extended further. Telemedicine parity becomes law January 1, 2021, and will likely not be extended beyond that date. Future extensions, if any, will be shared as they may occur. Most likely, meetings will be held virtually through June 2021, due to recent Governors Proclamation. The Governor has issued a directive for all state employees to work remotely through June 30, 2021.

3.1.2 CE policy statement

Dr. Aschtgen recommended an extension to the policy statement filed with the Code Reviser as WSR 20-10-075 that accepts online courses as meeting the CE requirements for licenses through the end of next year, December 31, 2021. Ms. Gragg will create a FAQ section for the board website to assist in answering questions regarding the CE requirements.

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the extension of the CE policy as recommended. The motion was seconded and passed.

3.2 Telemedicine in health care

3.2.1 Substitute Senate Bill 6061

Ms. Gragg reported the telemedicine training was made mandatory during the 2020 legislative session. The Telemedicine Collaborative had crafted training in 2019 when the training was optional, and it is available on the WSHA website. A new training is being created and when available, a uniform message to all impacted health professions will go out through GovDelivery.

3.2.2 Washington Medical Commission (WMC)/Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery (BOMS) rulemaking

Ms. Gragg shared that WMC, in collaboration with BOMS, is proposing to put telemedicine guidelines into rule. An initial workshop was held, and additional workshops will be scheduled to continue this rulemaking effort. An educational session held by the Medical Commission regarding this topic was recorded and is available on the Medical Commission's website. A link to this recording will be sent to the board for review.

3.3 Business Plan updates

The board reviewed their business plan and modifications presented by Ms. Gragg.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the business plan as modified. The motion was seconded and passed.

3.4 Correspondence/Inquiries

3.4.1 Stem cell aspiration follow-up

Mr. Eaton, Assistant Attorney General, and Dr. Ahdut discussed the research they did on this correspondence. The board then decided to have Mr. Eaton and Dr. Ahdut work together on a final response to the inquiry and bring it back for review at the next business meeting, February 12, 2021.

3.4.2 Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation used for Traumatic Brain Injury

Dr. Neary agreed to work with Mr. Eaton to review this correspondence further. Preliminary consensus was that it appears to be within current scope of practice however, a final discussion and response will occur at the February 12, 2021 meeting.

4. **Program Reports**

4.1 Budget report

Ms. Gragg shared the budget status report as of September 30, 2020. She reported that the budget is currently in good standing. The board appreciated the new budget report presented but would like to have both the summary and previous report at future board meetings.

Ms. Fullerton added that the agency is implementing HELMS. The contract was signed with Publis Sapient and the initial work is underway. Implementation is set for Spring 2022. HELMS will offer additional functions for the board to be able to easily access confidential information.

4.2 Statistics reports

The Credential Count report as of October 30, 2020, shows 1,555 active licensees. The Current Active Cases report shows 35 total active cases: 8 – under investigation, 1 – in assessment, 9 – pending service, 13 – under RBM/legal review, and 4 – marked for closure. Ms. Gragg will present a comparison of cases by year at the next board meeting, February 12, 2021.

4.3 Continuing education audit report

There was nothing new to report.

4.4 Recruitment report

Ms. Gragg reported that Deborah Wright, Public Member, will continue to serve until the board is able to find a replacement. Efforts at recruitment for public members are ongoing and Ms. Gragg requested additional outreach assistance from stakeholders.

5. **Open Forum**

The purpose of the open forum is to provide the public an opportunity to address the board on issues of significance to or affecting the practice of Naturopathy and that are not related to topics for which a rules hearing was or will be scheduled.

There was no comments or questions.

6. **Future Business**

There was no future business to discuss.

7. **Settlement Presentations.**

There were no settlement presentations to review.

8. **Adjournment of public meeting**

The meeting adjourned by approved motion at 10:32 A.M.

9. **Discipline and Licensing**

The board attended to licensing and disciplinary matters.

Next Meeting:

Date: February 12, 2021 – Virtually
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: TBD